

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 HA-05
MCT-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 (ISO) W
-----109205 122305Z /70

O R 121600Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7095
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION GENEVA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CAPE TOWN 731

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: DETENTION OF SWAPO MEMBERS

1. SWAPO HEADQUARTERS IN WINDHOEK INFORMED US DURING THE
COURSE OF A CONVRSAION APRIL 12 THAT ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE

SWAPO MEMBERS REMAIN IN DETENTION OUT OF NEARLY A HUNDRED
WHO THEY SAY HAD BEEN DETAINED IN VARIOUS PARTS OF NAMIBIA
OVER THE PAST TEN DAYS. ACCORDING TO A SWAPO OFFICIAL,
MOST OF THOSE DETAINED WERE HELD FOR QUESTIONING ABOUT
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RECENT INCIDENTS OF UNREST, AND THEN RELEASED. ONE OF
THOSE RELEASED AFTER TWO DAYS IN DETENTION. EMMANUEL MWATARA,
WHO WAS IDENTIFIED BY SWAPO HEADQUARTERS AS "A COMMANDER
OF THE SWAPO POLICE", HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN QUESTIONED
ABOUT THE KAPUUNO ASSASSINATION. OF THOSE WHO
REMAIN IN CUSTODY, MOST ARE IN THE GROOTFONTEIN
AREA, AND, ACCORDING TO SWAPO, ARE BEING HELD UNDER

THE TERRORISM ACT. THE MOST PROMINENT OF THE
DETAINEES IS SWAPO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER AND
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY AXEL JOHANNES, WHO WAS
DETAINED IN WINDHOEK ON APRIL 4. JOHANNES HAS BEEN
DETAINED ON SEVERAL PREVIOUS OCCASIONS, AND SERVED
A YEAR IN PRISON 1975-6 FOR REFUSING TO TESTIFY
AGAINST SWAPO COLLEAGUES ON TRIAL FOR THE MURDER OF
OVAMBO CHIEF ELIFAS.

2. A SWAPO OFFICIAL SPECULATED TO US THAT THE DETENTIONS
WERE A SAG ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE SWAPO SUPPORTERS IN
PREPARATION FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT IN NAMIBIA.

3. BRAND FOURIE INFORMED US ON
APRIL 7, IN REPLY TO AN INQUIRY BY AMBASSADOR MCHENRY,
THAT CONTRARY TO SWAPO'S ASSERTIONS, ONLY NINE SWAPO
MEMBERS HAD BEEN RECENTLY DETAINED AS OF THAT DATE. FOURIE SAID
AXEL JOHANNES AND FOUR OTHERS WERE BEING HELD IN
CONNECTION WITH THE MURDER OF CHIEF KAPUUNO, WHILE FOUR
ADDITIONAL SWAPO SUPPORTERS ARRESTED IN GROOTFONTEIN
HAD ALLEGEDLY SIGNED A LETTER MARKING ELEVEN PEOPLE
FOR ASSASSINATION.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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